



The League of Women Voters of North Orange County

The Voter



August 2026
LWVNOC
P.O Box 3073
Fullerton, CA 92834

www.lwvnoc.org

President's Message by Sharon O'Hara

August 26th is the anniversary of the certification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. What a milestone! Think of the years of struggle, sacrifice, and persistence our foremothers devoted to finally achieving their goal! And now that we've got it, what lengths are we willing to go to keep it?

We honor the legacy of the suffragists every time we step up and say "Yes" to deeper involvement in LWVNOC. Together we can direct our collective energy toward Voter Services, committees, and interest groups as we work together to turn out 8.5 million educated voters for the November 3rd midterm elections.

Your LWVUS has set the bar high knowing that we are truly in a constitutional crisis with our very democracy under siege. We're all called to step up our efforts to reach out to our circles, ensuring plans are made to educate voters, and turning out pro-democracy voters on November 3rd.

I am grateful to you all for the confidence shown in me by sending me as a voting delegate to the LWVUS Biennial Convention in late June. Joining me in Columbus OH was VP Gerri McNenny while Secretary Ruth Zemke joined virtually.

At the Convention I saw first-hand how the League Program (its education and advocacy platform) is updated to reflect new realities and the concerns of members - a worthy continuation of the work done decades ago at Seneca Falls and continued to our time.

Adopted were:

1. The overarching program "Defending a Democracy Under Siege: Voting Rights, Protecting Elections, Redistricting, Immigration, Individual Rights, and the Presidency."
2. LWV Washington State's **Protecting the Rights of Immigrants** (LWVNOC concurred when LWV Washington State sent us their proposal. It was important that this proposal had many concurrences from throughout the country leading to the LWVUS Board's concurrence prior to the Yes vote at Convention.)

"...All residents, regardless of immigration status or citizenship, should have access to services, legal representation, and the right to live and work in safety." (brief overview of the original wording)

**Below is the proposal which gave me the most opportunity to experience firsthand the LWV's excellent use of parliamentary procedure:

3. LWV Colorado **Religious Freedom**

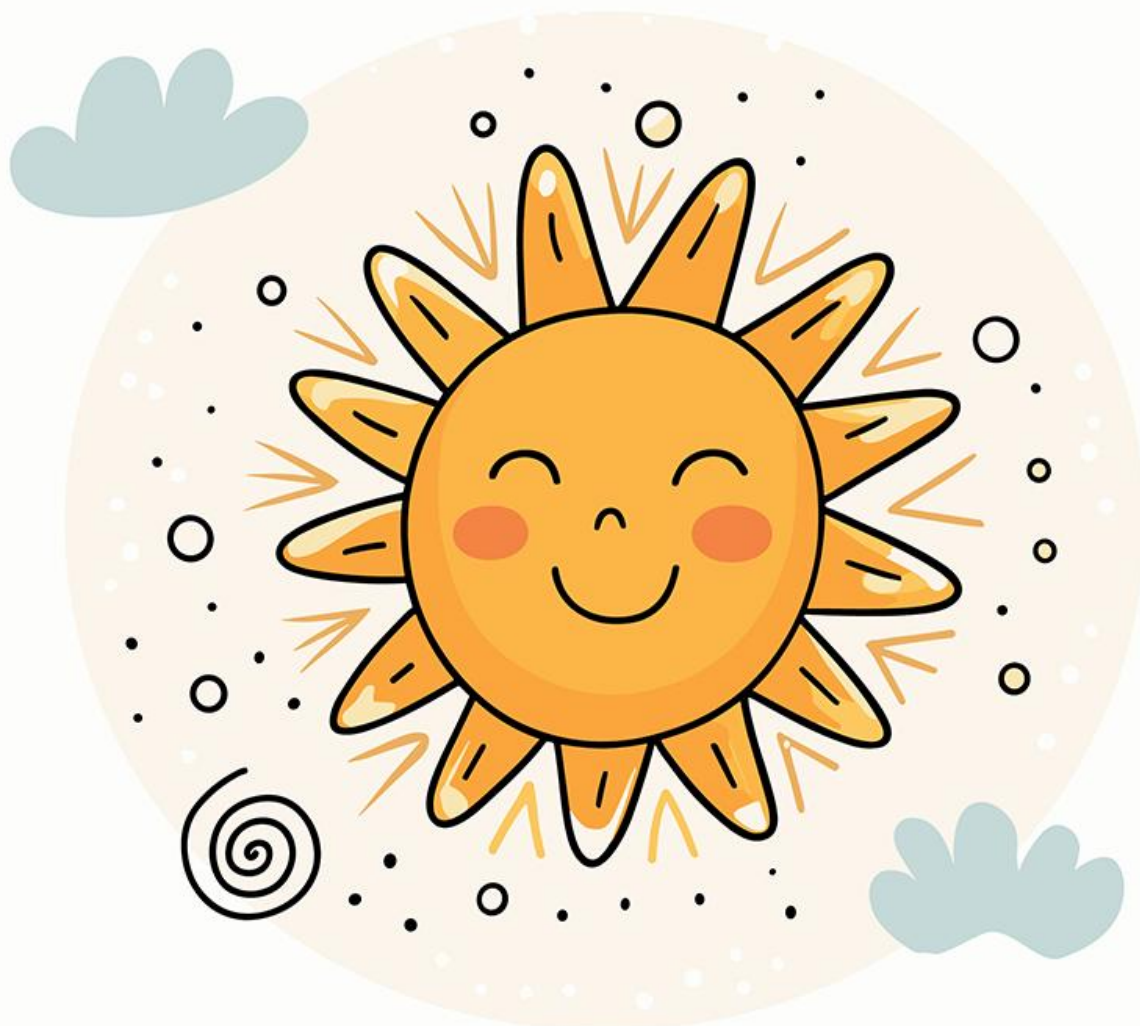
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“The League of Women Voters of Colorado stands for the separation of church and state and religious freedom.... threatened by religious nationalism.” (brief overview of the original wording)

Not only did LWV prepare delegates by providing a parliamentary procedure webinar by professional Parliamentarian Margaret-Ann Howie before Convention, but as this proposal moved through debate, the explanations from Ms. Howie gave guidance and clarification resulting in the No vote changing to Yes.

This is a snapshot of the Convention’s important work. I offer it as an example of why I’m so proud to be part of the League of Women Voters and your very new president. We have only a few short months before the midterms to show our family, friends and community why we are committed to the mission – empowering voters and defending democracy. **Let’s get going!**



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SAVE THE DATE & RSVP TODAY!

Join us on **Saturday, Sept. 19th at 10:30 am** for the League's annual **Kickoff and Silent Auction** to hear **Bob Page, Orange County's Registrar of Voters**, speak on **"Ensuring Orange County Voting Is Easy and Elections Are Secure."** At our luncheon, Bob will explain how elections are administered and how voter access, security, and transparency are maintained. Please RSVP to LUNCHWITHLEAGUE@lwvnoc.org by September 4th.

Payment for the Kickoff Luncheon can be made at this [LINK](#). The cost is \$35.



**Come hear
Bob Page
Orange
County
Registrar of
Voters
speak on**



**“Ensuring Orange County Voting
Is Easy and Elections Are Secure”
at the League’s Annual Kickoff.
Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026 at 10:30 AM
Coyote Hills Golf Club,
1440 E. Bastanchury, Fullerton 92835
RSVP LUNCHWITHLEAGUE@LWVNOC.ORG**

Ballot Measures

by Sue Guilford

The League of Women Voters of California has taken a position on three of the 14 ballot measures on the November 3, 2026, ballot:

- **Proposition 4 - California Fair Elections Act** YES
- **Proposition 5 - Recall Reform 2026** YES
- **Proposition 39 - Voter ID initiative** NO

The League, along with California Clean Money Fund and California Common Cause, led the effort to place the **California Fair Elections Act** on the ballot. The link to the fact sheet explains how the measure will:

- Remove the current prohibition on public financing of campaigns
- Require strict accountability
- Empower voters to help reduce the influence of special interests

The fact sheet, which can be found on the LWVC website, is here:

<https://lwvc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/CA-Fair-Elections-Act.pdf>

The League and California Common Cause led the effort to put **Recall Reform 2026** on the ballot. The current recall law allows for removal of an elected official by a narrow majority and opens up the possibility of electing a replacement who didn't win at least 50% of the vote. The recent failed recall election highlighted the need to reform the recall process.

The League and a number of state partners are especially concerned about Prop 39, the **Voter ID Initiative** which would disenfranchise thousands of voters and cost millions (including at least \$6 million in Orange County alone) to implement. This measure is a solution in search of a problem that doesn't exist, because we do not have a problem with noncitizens voting in California, or anywhere in the United State. The fact sheet is here.

<https://lwvc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Voter-ID-Fast-Facts-1.pdf>

All of us need to be prepared to talk with our friends about these ballot measures, especially Proposition 39, the Voter ID Initiative. Note: Complete information about these three measures can be found at www.lwvc.org/OurWork/BallotInitiatives



League of Women Voters Strongly Denounces President Trump's False Claims About Election Security in National Address

From LWVUS

WASHINGTON — The League of Women Voters issued the following statement from CEO Celina Stewart following President Donald Trump's address to the nation on Thursday [July 16, 2026]:

"The League of Women Voters strongly denounces President Trump's false, outlandish, and indefensible claims related to the security of US elections. Continuing to spread allegations that have been repeatedly debunked by experts through countless court proceedings not only erodes public confidence in the democratic process but also further weakens the institutions that protect our freedom to vote. This is yet another brazen attempt to undermine elections and suppress voter turnout.

"Our elections and national security have been protected because of agencies such as the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the US Election Assistance Commission (EAC), both of which had their leadership dismantled by the Trump administration. You cannot claim to defend election integrity while blatantly dismantling it and firing the independent experts whose very job it is to protect it.

"It is vital the American people realize that the administration's goal with this address was to create a new avenue to pass the SAVE Act yet again, after it failed three times in Congress. This bill would strip the right to vote from 70 million American women and cripple the American election system for personal political gain. When public trust in elections is deliberately undermined, and when millions of eligible voters are in danger of losing their right to vote, the damage extends far beyond a single speech or election cycle.

"This is a perilous inflection point for our democracy. By urging Americans to doubt whether their votes count, whether certified election results reflect the will of the people, and whether our system can endure, the president is eroding the foundations of self-government. Most troubling, his speech deliberately sowed suspicion among neighbors and communities, weakening the trust and shared commitment that make democratic life possible.

"Make no mistake: this is a deliberate, dangerous, and desperate attempt to spread doubt not only about the 2020 election and the verified integrity of our election process, but about *any* future election whose outcome President Trump refuses to accept. As our nation prepares for the November midterm elections, we call on leaders at every level to remember their constitutional duties and oaths of office and uphold their responsibility to strengthen our democracy by speaking truthfully about our elections. And we call on voters to show up to the November midterms in record numbers, so there can be no doubt, once and for all, that Americans are committed to electing a government that serves *all* of us, not just some of us."

Observer Corps Reports by Ruth Zemke, Pamela Berg, Sherlan Neblett and Karen Bender

At the June 23rd meeting of the **Orange County Board of Supervisors**, the mayor of Santa Ana, Valerie Amezcuca, expressed concern about the funding and location for Adult Reentry Grants, a program for individuals leaving jail or prison. The County was planning to locate this program in Santa Ana. The Board did not meet in July.

The **Placentia-Yorba Linda United School Board** did not meet in July.

Fullerton City Council, however, has been a hotbed of activity after failing to meet their annual budget deadline. After two community meetings (July 7 and July 9), a community survey with about 100 participants, and the July 14 Council budget Study session, on **July 21st** the council presented 3 possible budget plans for a vote:

Option A: Balance the budget for 1 yr by unfunding 9 FTEs and using reserve funding.

Option B: Balance the budget for 1 yr by unfunding 24 FTEs, service reductions and deferrals, and use of 1-time funds, avoiding use of reserve funds.

Option C: Balance the budget for 3 yrs without reserve funding by unfunding 32 or more FTEs and the use of 1-time funds over all three years.

The Council approved option C (3-2 with Charles and Zahra voting No). The final vote will be held after a Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 5:30 pm in the Fullerton City Council Chamber.

The Council also considered placing a one-half cent local sales tax with funds earmarked for street repair on the November 2026 ballot. A 3-2 vote (Jung and Charles voting NO) shelved the measure, thus ending the possibility of sales tax funding in the current budgetary crisis.

Items relevant to League positions included:

- 1) Fullerton's response to a Grand Jury Report on Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs or "forever chemicals") and a Water Quality Report from the Fullerton Water Department. Fullerton will monitor PFAs in water sources, implement treatment when needed, provide public education as well as advisory information regarding PFAs. Additionally, the Council approved a temporary PFAs treatment plant in the city.
- 2) City staff recommended that the council approve tax exempt bonds for converting almost 400 apartment units from market value to HUD units for renters with 60% to 80% of the area median income. The Council, noting loss of property tax revenue to the city during this budgetary crisis, passed a substitute motion to deny approval (Jung, Dunlap, and Valencia supporting denial of approval; Zahra and Charles voting against the denial).
- 3) City staff presented the Housing Annual Action Plan to partner with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to determine the needs of the community and find resources to meet them. HUD provides Community Block Grants as outlined in the report. The report was approved.
- 4) Staff reported that the library budget for purchase of teen and adult books would be cut completely and covered by Friends of the Library this year. A further line item was to cut Hunt library staffing and programming. *Full reports can be accessed on our Local League website: Click on Observer Reports. Also under "Members Only."*

LWVNOC Advocacy for July 2026 by Richard Larsen

This month there was not very much Advocacy activity. The only petition request was from Dora Rose, Deputy Director LWVC urging Governor Newsom to eliminate the California death penalty by using his executive authority to grant universal clemency to all with death sentences. This would change all death sentences to life without parole. There are currently 560 people on California’s death row, the largest in the nation and one of the largest in the world.

The other activity distributed to Advocacy Members was for three webinars. A webinar on Primary Election Reform Educational Webinar by LWVC, a webinar on Abolish the Electoral College by the LWV Deerfield/Lincolnshire, and a webinar on Extremist Groups, Hate & Violence presented by the Americans United Orange County. (au-oc.org)



Current Officers & Directors

2026-2028

OFFICERS

President: Sharon O’Hara
Vice President: Gerri McNenny
Secretary: Ruth Zemke
Treasurer: Jenny Luzi
Equal Opportunity Officer: Ruth Zemke

OFF-BOARD DIRECTORS

Facebook: Ruth Zemke
Observer Corps: Karen Bender
Read with League: Vacant
Student Outreach: Vacant

DIRECTORS

Action/Advocacy Director: Richard Larsen
Lunch w/ League: Betty Hammond
Maggie Lee
Membership: Maggie Lee
Voter Services: Sue Guilford
Speakers Committee: Gerri McNenny
E-mail Blasts: Maggie Lee
Web Host: Ed Smith
Special Events: Gerri McNenny
Voter Editor: Erica Hartsough
Nominating Committee: Barbara Dunsheath
Betty Hammond
Maggie Lee

No One Can Do Everything, but Everyone Can Do SOMETHING!

By Gret Milligan

You're in the LWVNOC and that's a great 1st step! The very critical midterm elections are about 3 months away and it is important that everyone find their way to resist the current regime and stand up for democracy! No one of us can make a huge impact on our own – but together, we ARE powerful!

Check this out: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/27404109579229769>

Yes, "Someone SHOULD do something!" What works for you? **What is YOUR "something"?**

1. Is it Calling Your Legislators?

Just watch this very short clip: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/2176672439572239>

2. Is it Protesting?

There are protests going on in Orange County LITERALLY every day of the week and at multiple locations on most days. Think you're too old? Check this out and note the folks featured at the **4:25 mark**:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pr4YwdXtnnA&list=PLtcRwLEGcGIE_DyJNeKYTI0u7cor2o3R&index=106

I find it inspiring to think that the huge crowds of people seen in this video of the "Hands Off" protests in April 2025 were made up of millions of individual citizens who each made a decision to get out in the streets that day with their signs and flags or just their love of country and stand together for democracy.

And to be sure you have the most up to date information **it is always best to check 50501OC's protest calendar for the latest information (note the color-coded key at the top):** <https://50501oc.com/protest-calendar/>

3. Is it Financial Support?

Since the legislature is refusing to take its oversight duties seriously, we have had to rely on the courts and democracy defending organizations to bring lawsuits against unlawful/unconstitutional laws, executive orders, etc. You can make individual contributions or set up monthly donations to support this work. Nothing is too small and there are a number of worthy organizations that are fighting every day.

Did you know that **The League of Women Voters of California** has taken action on 104 bills in the current legislative session? Some of our own LVWVOC chapter members have attended court proceedings in Los Angeles to support the California Secretary of State and the Orange County Registrar of Voters in their (so far successful) fight against turning over sensitive voter data to the Trump Administration at which the League was recognized by the Court as an intervenor in those cases.

*Support **LWVNOC** here: <https://my.lwv.org/california/north-orange-county/donate>

*Support the **LWVC** here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/2IOpwBufT0Wb67KsSx4G-A2>

*Support the **LWVUS** here: <https://donate.lwv.org/page/84107/donate/1>

***Mark Elias** is a leading voting rights attorney and he and his law firm, **Elias Law Group**, have many times battled the Trump Administration, including in The Supreme Court, and usually successfully. You can become a free or paid subscriber to his news and media outlet, **Democracy Docket**, here:

<https://www.democracymarket.com/>. You can donate to their very robust efforts here:

<https://donate.democracymarket.com/support>.

***The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)** has been fighting for social justice issues for almost 100 years, including voting rights, reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ rights, racial justice, freedom from government surveillance, ending mass incarceration and more and frequently take on the overreach of the current regime, often with success. Donate to them at: <https://action.aclu.org/give/now>.

*Despite cuts to their funding, **Planned Parenthood** continues to provide not only abortion access, but birth control, pregnancy/pre-natal care, options counseling, STD/STI care, general wellness care, cancer screenings, gender affirming care and more. You can donate to our local **Planned Parenthood – Planned Parenthood of Orange and San Bernardino Counties, Inc.** at: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-orange-san-bernardino> and click on “Donate”.

These are just a few of the worthy organizations that deserve our support in the fight for democracy.

4. Is it Mutual Aid/Community Care/Food Banking?

Snap cuts have hurt many families in need and catalyzed a variety of efforts to help. Among them are: **Collective Aid OC** <https://www.instagram.com/collectiveaidoc/> operates 2 free, no ID required, no questions asked community food pantries. They are located inside these establishments:

***The Untold Story Bookstore** (pantry/fridge/freezer) <https://untoldstorybooks.com/>

301 North Anaheim Blvd, Suite D, Anaheim 92805

Hours Tuesday-Saturday 11:30 AM to 7:30 PM, Sunday 11:30 AM to 6:30 PM

***La Colmena (pantry only)** <https://www.lacolmenacoop.com/>

1901 West Walnut Street, Santa Ana 92703

Tuesday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Wednesday 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Thursday 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Sunday 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Accepted items: fresh produce, eggs, milk, cheese, bread, pasta and sauces, canned goods, rice, dried beans, diapers, wipes, menstrual and hygiene items. Raw meat is accepted only at the Anaheim location's freezer if properly labeled and dated. Items must be brand new, unexpired and unopened.

They also need volunteers to work at the food pantries! Can't shop yourself? Venmo them @collectiveaidoc

*Mutual aid donations (non-perishables only) are also collected at some of the weekly protest and/or Mutual Aid Drive sites.

Please check the 50501OC calendar for Mutual Aid Drives: <https://50501oc.com/protest-calendar/>

5. Is it Supporting Immigrant Workers?

Consider helping **LUCHA (Laborers United in Community Healing and Action)** which supports day laborers, immigrant families and marginalized residents. They operate “Hubs” near high-traffic day labor sites like certain Home Depots where they provide food, water, snacks, resource information and general support for day laborers. Ideally (if they have enough volunteers) they will man the Hubs from morning to the early afternoons. They operate in the parking lots of the following Home Depots: Orange (on Tustin Ave), Anaheim (on Brookhurst St.), Fullerton, Santa Ana (on Edinger as well as on McArthur), La Habra, Westminster, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Lake Forest and Costa Mesa (this one is at the

7-11 Store near the Home Depot). They are always on the lookout for ICE, etc. and coordinate with Orange County Rapid Response Network <https://ocrapidresponse.org/> and the OC Community Self-Defense Coalition <https://www.instagram.com/occommunityselfdefense/>.

You can stop by any of the Hubs and donate water, snacks, non-perishables, produce, or even home baked goods or just say hello and offer emotional support. DM them for more information at:

<https://www.instagram.com/luchaanaheim/>, <https://www.instagram.com/luchasantaana/?hl=en>, or https://www.instagram.com/lucha_orange/.

6. Could you help with the Mid-Term Election in November?

The **Orange County Registrar of Voters** <https://ocvote.gov/> may be looking to hire **Vote Center Customer Service Representatives (CSRs)** as November approaches. These are temporary, hourly, paid positions that include paid training. Although it is possible to be assigned anywhere in Orange County, generally you are assigned to a Vote Center in your own neighborhood. You must be available to work for 6 consecutive days which, for the upcoming mid-term elections, would be Friday, October 30th through Wednesday, November 4th. If you want to be notified of openings sign up here:

https://ocvote.gov/jobinterest?utm_source=chatgpt.com#no-back.

Look for more updates on ways to help in future issues of *The Voter*!



VOTE 411 FLYER

You'll really get a feel for the Nov. 3rd local candidates as you volunteer with our OC VOTE 411 team. Contact our OC coordinator Petti Van Rekom at petti.vanrekom@petti.com.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF CALIFORNIA**

**VOLUNTEER FOR
VOTE411 IN 2026**

Help California Voters Make Informed Decisions

The League of Women Voters of California is seeking dedicated volunteers who are passionate about voter education and civic engagement to support our work on VOTE411.

What is VOTE411?

VOTE411 is a nonpartisan online election guide operated by the League of Women Voters. California's volunteer network helps provide voters with information about local candidates and ballot measures across the state.

Join a team that helps voters access trusted election information before they cast their ballots.



**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Support VOTE411 efforts in your county and help keep local election information accurate and complete!

Responsibilities include:

- ✓ Researching & collecting candidate contact info
- ✓ Making phone calls and sending emails to candidates
- ✓ Entering local ballot measure information into the VOTE411 system
- ✓ Coordinating with local League volunteers
- ✓ Promoting VOTE411 in your community

 **No technical experience is required for most volunteer tasks.**

**TRAINING & SUPPORT**

We Set You Up For Success!

- ✓ Live training sessions
- ✓ Weekly office hours and volunteer support
- ✓ One-on-one guidance from experienced VOTE411 Liaisons
- ✓ Access to the CA VOTE411 volunteer community & resources

 Every volunteer receives a CA VOTE411 email address to maintain professionalism and protect personal contact information.

**TIMELINE**

Key dates for the November Election

-  Volunteer training sessions **Week of August 3**
-  Volunteer work begins **August 2026**
-  Ballots mailed to voters **October 5, 2026**

 **Estimated time commitment:** Approximately 5-10 hrs/week between August & October

**WHY VOLUNTEER?**

-  Support nonpartisan voter education
-  Help voters make informed choices
-  Connect with local candidates
-  Strengthen democracy in your community

**INTERESTED IN JOINING THE TEAM?**

Orange County Contact:

Petti Van Rekom
Orange County Coordinator

 pvanrekom@cavote411.org

 949-370-8772

A project of the League of Women Voters of California
500 Capitol Mall, Ste 2350 #5001, Sacramento CA 95814